

Funding Mechanism Comparison

	Issue	Short-Term Levy (6 years)	Long-Term Levy (12 years)	Metropolitan Park District (Park District)
1	Long-term funding source?	A short-term levy requires voter approval, is in place for six years, and would require voter approval for continuation.	A long-term levy requires voter approval, is in place for the duration of the term (12 years), and would require voter approval for continuation.	A metropolitan park district requires voter approval and would provide long-term funding. A Park District does not require voter approval for continuation, but could be dissolved by the Park District governing board.
2	Revenue source for on-going regular maintenance, operations, and programming?	A short-term levy would provide funding for 6 years (the duration of the term). After which, the programs it funded would no longer have a revenue source.	A long-term levy would provide funding for 12 years (the duration of the term). After which, the programs it funded would no longer have a revenue source.	A Park District would provide long-term, stable funding for ongoing maintenance, operations and programming.
3	Governance	Mayor and City Council provide governance.	Mayor and City Council provide governance.	The City Council will be the Park District governing board. The Park District will contract through an inter-local agreement (ILA) with Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks) for the provision of services. Mayor and City Council provide governance over Parks.
4	Citizen Oversight	A Citizens’ Oversight Committee would be established. The committee may: 1) be the citizen-based Park Board formed under SMC 3.26; or 2) may consist of representatives from the Park Board PLUS seven additional community members. The committee would advise on and review performance measures, allocations of challenge fund dollars, and changes to spending priorities after 6 years.	A Citizens’ Oversight Committee would be established. The committee may: 1) be the citizen-based Park Board formed under SMC 3.26; or 2) may consist of representatives from the Park Board PLUS seven additional community members. The committee would advise on and review performance measures, allocations of challenge fund dollars, and changes to spending priorities after 6 years.	The ILA will require a Citizens’ Oversight Committee be established. The committee may: 1) be the citizen-based Park Board formed under SMC 3.26; or 2) may consist of representatives from the Park Board PLUS seven additional community members. The committee would advise on and review performance measures, allocations of challenge fund dollars, and changes to spending priorities after 6 years.
5	Counts toward the City's property tax levy cap of \$3.60 per \$1,000 of assessed value	A short-term levy would count towards the City’s property tax levy cap of \$3.60.	A long-term levy would count towards the City’s property tax levy cap of \$3.60.	A Park District would NOT count towards the City’s property tax levy cap of \$3.60.
6	Taxing level subject to voter approval or renewal	The amount of revenue to be collected from a short-term levy is written in the ballot measure itself.	The amount of revenue to be collected from a long-term levy is written in the ballot measure itself.	The initial amount of revenue to be collected would be contained in the inter-local agreement (ILA).
7	Possible for funding to keep up with inflation	Revenue is not limited to 1% annual growth rate with a short-term levy and can keep up with inflation.	Revenue can only grow by 1% annually with a long-term levy which may be less than the rate of inflation.	Revenue is not limited to 1% annual growth with a Park District and can keep up with inflation.
8	Unfamiliar/new type of funding for the City of Seattle	Short-term levies are a familiar funding source for Seattle.	Long-term levies are a familiar funding source for Seattle.	A Park District is new to Seattle but has been used elsewhere in Washington including Tacoma. Seattle has the Transportation Benefit District, which is a similar taxing authority to a Park District.
9	Funds parks and recreation purposes only	Yes. Limits are specified in the ballot measure.	Limits are specified in the ballot measure.	State law limits Park District funds to parks and recreation purposes.
10	Compliance with City ordinances, rules and laws	As a City department, Parks is required to comply with City laws, ethics rules, and labor contracts.	As a City department, Parks is required to comply with City laws, ethics rules, and labor contracts.	As a City department, Parks is required to comply with City laws, ethics rules, and labor contracts. Parks will be the sole provider of services to the Park District and thus all Park District services would have to comply with City laws, ethics rules and labor contracts.
11	Ownership	Park and recreation land, facilities, and equipment preserved and maintained with levy funds are, and shall remain, the property of the City of Seattle. Any new or replacement land, facilities, and equipment created or developed with levy funds will become the property of the City of Seattle. Selling City-owned park land or facilities would be subject to Initiative 42 restrictions on sale of park property.	Park and recreation land, facilities, and equipment preserved and maintained with levy funds are, and shall remain, the property of the City of Seattle. Any new or replacement land, facilities, and equipment created or developed with levy funds will become the property of the City of Seattle. Selling City-owned park land or facilities would be subject to Initiative 42 restrictions on sale of park property.	Park and recreation land, facilities, and equipment preserved and maintained with Park District funds are, and shall remain, the property of the City of Seattle. Any new or replacement land, facilities, and equipment created or developed with Park District funds will become the property of the City of Seattle. Selling City-owned park land or facilities would be subject to Initiative 42 restrictions on sale of park property.

12	Condemnation	If condemnation of property is needed to perform short-term levy services, Parks follows City condemnation procedures.	If condemnation of property is needed to perform long-term levy services, Parks follows City condemnation procedures.	If condemnation of property is needed to perform Park District services, Parks follows City condemnation procedures.
13	Relationship to City budgeting	The Mayor would direct the development and implementation of Parks’ budgets and work programs, consistent with the 6-year spending plan described in the levy ordinance fiscal note. City Council would approve Parks budgets and provide oversight.	The Mayor would direct the development and implementation of Parks’ budgets and work programs, consistent with the 6-year spending plan described in the levy ordinance fiscal note. City Council would approve Parks budgets and provide oversight.	The Mayor would direct the development and implementation of Parks’ budgets and work programs. City Council would approve Parks budgets and provide oversight. The Park District Board would approve a final District budget showing how Park District revenues would fund part of Parks budget, consistent with the 6-year spending plan approved in the inter-local agreement.
14	Future allocation of resources and spending plan	The Citizens’ Oversight Committee would lead a community-oriented process to determine spending priorities for any subsequent levy proposal.	The Citizens’ Oversight Committee would lead a community-oriented process to determine spending priorities for any subsequent levy proposal.	The Citizens’ Oversight Committee would lead a community-oriented process to determine spending priorities every 6 – 8 years.